

ACS PARENT GUIDELINES FOR PEDICULOSIS (Head lice and nits)

If a lice infestation is confirmed, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick their student up at the earliest opportunity. A letter will be sent home with the child to explain the condition and the requirements for readmission.

Prior to readmission, satisfactory evidence (OTC receipt, OTC empty container, proof of prescription medication, or other school nurse approved method) must be provided to school personnel that the student has been treated for pediculosis (head lice) and a school official has examined the student to ensure there has been improvement since the parent/guardian was notified (meaning elimination of live lice and nits **near** the scalp).

A student shall be expected to return to school no later than 2 days following notification of the condition. The student will be excused the day the student dismisses early and the day following, if necessary, for proper treatment.

Failure to meet these requirements shall result in the student's exclusion until criteria are met for readmission. **These absences will not be excused.**

What you need to know about head lice:

- Head lice are wingless insects, they do not jump or fly, live close to the scalp, and **DO NOT** transmit disease.
- Lice are a nuisance and not a medical concern.
- Most cases of head lice are acquired outside the school setting, although the school nurse is often the first to detect the infestation.
- Transmission requires direct head to head contact. This typically occurs during sleepovers, camps, childcare facilities, etc.....
- The presence of lice does not indicate unsanitary living conditions or poor hygiene.

How to treat head lice:

- Ordinary shampoo and constant washing ARE NOT effective.
- Head lice must be treated with pediculicide products (lice-killing treatment) OTC or prescription.
- Carefully read and follow all instructions accompanying the treatment.
- Remove nits (eggs), especially those close to the scalp, to reduce the chance of re-infestation.

What about cleaning:

- Household members and close contacts should be checked and treated if infestation is present.
- Vacuum floor and furniture where the infested person sat or slept.
- Bedding, recently used clothes, hats, headbands, towels, and personal articles (combs, brushes, hair clips, etc....) should be washed in very hot water or sealed in plastic bag for 2 weeks.

How to prevent re-infestation:

- Check for live lice and nits daily for 10 days at home.
- Remove nits (eggs) from hair, especially those close to the scalp.
- Re-apply the lice treatment, per package recommendations, within 7-10 days.
- Check for nits 14 days after 2nd treatment.

The following links will provide additional information:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html>
- <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/135/5/e1355>

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Contact your school nurse if you have any questions or need any further assistance.